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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

(5727/1 01-13) Date: September 10, 2001

COAST GUARD AND L.A.I.M.A. PREPARE FOR MAJOR OIL SPILLS ON THE OHIO RIVER

On Tuesday, September 11, at 9:00 a.m., the U. S. Coast Guard Marine Safety Office Louisville and members of the Louisville Area Industrial Mutual Aid (L.A.I.M.A.) cooperative will participate in a joint, on-water oil spill countermeasures exercise. The event will kick off at the Greenwood Boat Ramp with field instruction given by a team of Coast Guard pollution responders. An on-water pollution countermeasures equipment deployment exercise will follow.

As a major American transportation route, the Ohio River must be protected from the threat of catastrophic oil and hazardous chemical spills. Industry cooperatives such as L.A.I.M.A. work closely with the Coast Guard, EPA and other state and local response organizations to plan for the worst. Media boat rides to view the deployment can be arranged through the Marine Safety Office Louisville Public Affairs Officer, LTJG Steven M. Garcia at 582-5194, ext. 38.